

INFORMATIONAL REPORT ~~SECRET~~

229312

COUNTRY Argentina/Spain

DATE DISTR<sup>10</sup> August 1948

SUBJECT Spanish Shipbuilders Representatives ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ OF PAGES

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NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. Two Spanish representatives recently arrived in Buenos Aires to consult with Miguel Miranda, president of the National Economic Council, regarding the construction of ships in Spain for Argentina. The representatives are Jesus Alfaro, president of the Spanish shipping firm Elcano, who is representing the Spanish Government, and Augusto Miranda, director general of the firm Constructora Naval, who is acting as a representative of private shipping interests in Spain.
2. Alfaro and Augusto Miranda, accompanied by the Spanish Ambassador, Jose Maria Areilza, have had several interviews with Miguel Miranda, which, according to official announcements, were for the purpose of formalizing the plans already agreed upon in principle. The true purpose of the Spaniards' trip to Buenos Aires, however, reportedly was to inform the Argentine Government that under existing conditions it will be practically impossible for Spain to build the ships for Argentina in the time originally allotted.
3. It is reported that the Spanish representatives suggested to Miranda that Argentina obtain the construction materials from England and Switzerland to be delivered directly to Spain. Unless such a plan is carried through, according to the source of this report, Spain will be unable to deliver the ships on schedule because of the shortage of materials and equipment in that country.

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